

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable consideration of this application, as presently amended and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-20 are pending, with Claims 11-20 amended by the present amendment.

In the Official Action, Claims 1, 2, 4-6, 11-14, 16 and 20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Natarajan et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,505,244, hereinafter Natarajan); Claims 3 and 7-10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Natarajan in view of Evans (U.S. Patent No. 5,694,524) and Yates et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,330,586, hereinafter Yates); and Claims 15 and 17-19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Natarajan, Evans and Yates.

Claims 11-20 are amended to materially reduce issues to be considered for appeal and so that Claims 11-20 comply with 35 U.S.C. § 101. No new matter is added. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request entry of the present amendment.

Respectfully submitted,

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